(c) India is not self sufficient to meet the fertilizer requirement. There are no economically exploitable potassic resources in the country leading to 100% import dependence on potash. In phosphate also, the indigenous resources are sufficient to meet 10% of requirement and hence, 90% of phosphatic requirement is also met through import of raw material(rock phosphate, intermediate (phosphatic acid) or finished fertilizers (DAP). In urea we produce 20 Million Tonnes in the country and thus, we are 70% self-sufficient. Here also 30% (approximately 6 million tonnes) is imported.

Fertilizer Subsidy

2497. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizer subsidy currently touching Rs. One lakh crores has brought only 1.3 per cent annual growth in farm production over past six and seven years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India lags in fertilizer usage and its average consumption is merely 113.26 kg per hectare as compared to Bangladesh's 290 kg;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there has been no significant investment in urea and phosphate sectors for last ten years and import dependence has grown to 30 per cent in nitrogenous and 90 per cent phosphatic sector, respectively; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and remedial action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The foodgrain production in the country during 2001-02 was 212.85 Milion Tonnes which increased to 233.88 Million Tonnes in 2008-09, the annual growth being 1.36%.

(c) and (d) The average consumption of fertilizers (NPK) in India was 128.58 kg per hectare (provisional) in 2008-09.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. There is no investments in urea sector during the last ten years. In the Phosphatic sector, only two Phosphatic Fertilizers units namely Indo-Gulf Chemical Ltd.(IGCL), Dahej in 2000-01 and Oswal Chemical & Fertilizers Limited (OCFL), Paradeep in 2001-02 have been established. Lack of investments in Phosphatic Sector is largely due to raw materials/input constraints. India is largely import dependent for Rock Phosphate and Phos acid and the dependence have been more than 90% of Phosphatic inputs.

The Government has announced on 4th September 2008, a policy for investment in urea sector to promote further investments in urea sector. For phosphatic sector, the Government has been encouraging setting up of joint ventures abroad in resource rich countries with an aim to secure future supplies of fertilizers inputs and finished fertilizers especially in this sector.